

ple capable of appreciating a graceful and generous act and of taking pleasure in seeing our harbor embellished. Of course, this idea no longer exists, for our unwillingness to provide a pedestal proves that we care nothing for sentiment or art in a matter in which there is no money to be made. It is, therefore, better to tell the Frenchmen frankly what we think of their conduct and what we feel that we have a right to expect. If they will put up the statue at their own expense, and pay us, say, \$10,000 a year as rent for the site on which they place it, we will probably agree not to break it up and sell it for old bronze for at least ten years. This is at once businesslike and handsome on our part, and a frank proposal of this nature will doubtless raise us in the opinion of the Frenchmen, who have noted our unwillingness either to refuse the statue or to furnish a pedestal for it.

#### *A GIFT STATUE.*

The painful parsimony of the Frenchmen who have undertaken to present this City with the statue of Liberty Enlightening the World is simply disgusting. They have in effect told us that we cannot have the statue unless we provide it with a pedestal. This effort to compel us to pay out our own money for the embellishment of our harbor has not yet been condemned by the press with the severity which it deserves. It is true that it is some years since the Frenchmen began their attempt upon our pockets, and we have not as yet provided the money for the pedestal; but a few liberal and simple-minded people have contributed money towards the cost of a pedestal, and it is possible that within ten or fifteen years an amount of money sufficient for the purpose will be collected.

The Frenchmen, when they undertook to put us to the expense of providing a pedestal, cunningly took advantage of our fondness for big things. They evidently held the opinion, also attributed to Gen. DI CESNOLA, that Americans care more for quantity than quality. The statue of Liberty is the biggest statue in the world, and this fact was expected to make it popular here. Of course, the statue may have more or less artistic merit, but even were it utterly bad it would have been ungracious for us to look a gift statue in the mouth or elsewhere, especially a statue so big that it could be at any time broken up and sold for old metal for a considerable sum.

When, however, the Frenchmen asked us to provide a pedestal for their gift statue, they underrated our shrewdness as a commercial people. It has been established by a careful computation that the pedestal will cost more than the statue would fetch were the latter to be sold as old metal. We do not propose to walk into any [such trap, as is evident by our failure to subscribe the estimated cost of the pedestal.

What the Frenchmen should have done is very clear to every really shrewd American, and fortunately it is not yet too late for the Frenchmen to abandon their demand for a pedestal and to adopt the only proper and generous course. They should give us both the statue and the pedestal. They should also buy, at a valuation made by ourselves, a proper site for the statue, and after erecting it at their own expense they should give the site back to our City. Furthermore, after thus furnishing us with a statue free of all expense, they should pay us a yearly rent for the site of the statue, so that we need not feel compelled to take it down and sell it until such time as we might grow tired of seeing it. If the Frenchmen wished to be conspicuously generous they might give us, with the statue, a sum of money sufficient to fill our City Treasury, pay off our municipal debt, and thus render practicable the reduction of our taxes. Still, this need not be insisted upon, and we could afford to thank the givers of the statue even if they gave us nothing more.

There appears to have been an idea among the Frenchmen that we are a peo-